

Delcambre

## Owner of Bozo's Seafood Market dies from diabetes complications

By BRAD CROCKER  
Mississippi Press Staff

PASCAGOULA — Russell Delcambre, 69, longtime owner of Bozo's Seafood Market and Grocery, died Tuesday from complications with sugar diabetes.

A Biloxi native and graduate of Notre Dame High School, Delcambre came to Pascagoula in 1956 after serving a four-year stint as a navigator in the Navy.

Along with his parents, Elus "Bozo" and Carmen Marie Delcambre, Russell, also known as "Mr. Bozo," opened the seafood market in 1956. It has been at the same location on Ingalls Avenue and in the same building ever since.

Delcambre's four sons, Paul, Keith, Tommy and Christian grew up in the business, working their way up like any other employee.

The Delcambre boys said their father was very instrumental in teaching them

the business principals they know today.

Tommy said their dad grew up in a business world where you were required to know all the customers' names and that the customer was always right.

"That's a rare practice today," Tommy Delcambre said. "I think all of our business ethics were taught to us by him."

Keith Delcambre said "the store" meant the world to their father and his relationships with customers were very important.

Keith said even after his father had to have both legs amputated due to his illness, he still came to work.

"He'd come in whether he didn't feel like it or not. It was his life," Keith Delcambre said. "He leaves some mighty big shoes to fill. He was a good businessman with a good head on his shoulder."

He said Russell used to be able to talk

on the phone, count money and take orders all at the same time. "Whatever he had to do, he could just handle it. He was amazing."

He said his father also believed in spending his money at more than one local business in appreciation of the large base of varying customers Bozo's has catered to for so many years.

"He never put all his eggs in one basket," he said.

Longtime customer Daisy Landrum said she cried when she heard the news about Delcambre's death.

"He made sure everything was right and that you were satisfied, and he always wanted to know what was going on with your family, too," Landrum said.

"He was such a sweet man, and so many of these big business people can't even start to understand what he knew,"

she said.

"Everyone knew him and came and talked to him and that meant so much to him," Tommy Delcambre said.

The Christmas tree lot across the street from the seafood market has been a Pascagoula mainstay since 1960. Tommy Delcambre remembers when the trees used to come by train from Michigan.

Delcambre's ex-wife, Agnes, who also helped in the store's success, said customers and friends have provided a lot of moral support, especially for their sons.

"They've known him for a long time and sharing their sympathy for the boys has helped and we appreciate it all," she said.

Visitation is tentatively set for Thursday from 5-9 p.m. at O'Bryant-O'Keefe Funeral Home in Pascagoula.

### DELCAMBRE

Russell Paul Delcambre, Sr., 69, of Theodore, Ala., died Monday, Dec. 23, 2002, in Theodore, Ala. He was born

August 29, 1933, in Biloxi, Miss. Mr. Delcambre was a former resident of Pascagoula from 1956-1991. He retired in 1999 as owner of Bozo's Seafood in Pascagoula. He was of the Catholic faith and a U.S. Navy veteran.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ellis Joseph "Bozo" Delcambre and Carmen Marie Delcambre.

Survivors include his wife, Janelle Delcambre, Theodore, Ala.; four sons, Russell Paul Delcambre, Jr., Pascagoula; Richard Keith Delcambre (Evelyn Dean); Thomas "Tom" Joseph Delcambre, Christian Andrew Delcambre, Pascagoula; three step-sons, Darius James Hammac (Kelly), North Carolina; Darryl Aubrey Hammac (Sherry), Mobile, Ala.; Dale Travis Hammac, Mobile, Ala.; two sisters, Sherry Larsen (Jere), Moss Point and Dolores Green, Gautier, Miss.; six grandchildren, Jeremy Brandon Ford, Heather Lynn Griffin, Darius James Hammac, Jr., Paul Bradford Hammac, Kayala Nicole Hammac, Hannah Maria Hammac; and mother-in-law, Elizabeth Brannan, Mobile, Ala.

Visitation will be Thursday, Dec. 26, from 6-9 p.m., with Rosary recited at 7 p.m., at O'Bryant-O'Keefe Funeral Home, Pascagoula.

Funeral service will be Friday, Dec. 27, 10 a.m., at O'Bryant-O'Keefe Funeral Home, Pascagoula, with the Rev. Wendell Stork and Father Gerard Cleary officiating.

Interment will be in Machpelah Cemetery, Pascagoula, Miss.

Arrangements made by O'Bryant-O'Keefe Funeral Home, Pascagoula, Miss.

Pascagoula Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
Delcambre Family History



Russell



Bozo

